



## FOR 16 MONTHS I COURTED HER.

For sixteen months I courted her  
My gentle Colleen Bawn,  
With eyes like wells of Paradise  
And cheek like rosy dawn,  
It was on a Christmas morning,  
When the fields were white with snow  
The first sight of her sweet young face,  
Set all my heart aglow.

Her hooded cloak was drawn so close  
But just one glimpse I caught,  
As if the skies had opened,  
And showed me heaven I thought,  
And oh the newly born child,  
Was not from sin more free,  
Than my darling in her innocence,  
Per Virgin purity,

I followed her to early mass,  
And offered up a prayer,  
That God might keep her innocent,  
As he had made her fair,  
And all that day I haunted her,  
From morning 'til night,  
Bewildered by her angel face,  
Her smiles so soft and bright.

Oo It was a happy Christmas time  
For my grá ga machree,  
Though modest as a nun,  
Smiled sweetly upon me  
Her friends all kindly welcomed me,  
Obed her I crossed the way,  
And no one then looked black or sour  
Powerer long I'd stay,

Then I was rich in land and stock  
My home was happy then,  
A sweeter spot could not be found,  
In Aberlow's bright glen,  
I was a catch for any girl,  
Where maschs go by welth,  
Now I've lost all but praise the Lord  
He left me youth and health,

In one year all my cattle died,  
And my best crops were blighted,  
In vain I worked myself to oil,  
Bad luck upon me lighted,  
Tee landlord had no mercy,  
At first his heart seemed stirred,  
He promised me full time to pay,  
But after broke his word,

I could have borne anything,  
Though much I had to bear,  
If I were left but one sweet hope  
To save me from despair,  
My cup of sorrow overflowed,  
When I was lately told,  
They'll force my own Colleen to wed  
An old man for his gold,

Oh marriage is a holy tie,  
Blest by the Lord above,  
But woe be to such marriages;  
Without one spark of love,  
Why is it in our own dear land,  
Full of warm hearts and true,  
They wed for money not for love,  
Another nation's do,